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PEOPLE OF EFFUTU AND THEIR FESTIVALS (WINNEBA) HISTORY Winneba is a town and the capital of EFFUTU MUNICIPAL DISTRICT in the Central Region of Southern Ghana. Winneba has a population of 60,331. Winneba, Traditionally know as SIMPA is an historic fishing port in southern Ghana, lying on the South Coast, 90 miles (140 km) East of Cape Coast. Effutu Municipal area is one of the 170 district in Ghana and one of the 17 district in the Central Region. It was extracted from the Awutu-Effutu-Senya District Assembly in 2007 by L 11860 and it covers a total area of about 64 square kilometres. The people of winneba were part of the large family of Guan Speaking people who migrated out of TIMBUKTU, proudly referred to as TUMUTU by the natives, between 1100-1200 some of the tribes among this group were the GONJA, KYEREPON, LARTEH, NKONYA, KRAKYI and the AWUTU.

FESTIVALS The Effutu have THREE major Festivals this colourful Masquerading Festival, supported by brass band music and held on January each year at Advance Park (Formaly know as Humphrey's Park) near the South Campus of the University of Education, Winneba. ABOAKYIRE FESTIVAL also hold during the first week of May each year coupled with a lot of activities. AKOMASE is a ritual festival celebrated in August that involves Sacrificing Domestic Animals to the lesser gods of Winneba. All of these festivals are dominated by music and art forms close to the hurt of the Effutufo (Brown 2005)

OTHER FESTIVALS There are other festivals of the Effutus which are not popular as the ABOAKYIRE, MASQUERADE and AKOMASE. These are 1. TUAFO FIDA (Twins Yam Feasting) 2. DENSTEFO MEMENDA 3. FANSTE FANSTE FIRING OF MUSKET (PETU) 4. EYIPEY OTU YAM FEASTING 5. ASH WEDNESDAY (Festival of the Gourd) All this festivals serves as means to remember their ancestor and seek for protection and purification. The festivals are opportunity given by their forefathers to showcase their rich culture history and arts forms.

WILLIAM DE-CARTHIA (KOW TETTEH)

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